

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Official Action dated 07 September 2004 has been carefully considered, along with cited references, applicable sections of the Patent Act, Patent Rules.

Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee (US 5,320,011).

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fischer et al. (US 3,089,373).

Claims 2-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer et al. (US 3,089,373) in view of Kienzler (US 6,746,058).

Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is significantly different from that of the cited arts as can be seen from their respective structures. Applicant's invention as specified in the amended claims 1 and 3-7 is patentably distinguishable over these references when taken either singularly or in combination for the following reasons:

The Examiner cites Fischer et al. as an example disclosing the invention substantially as claimed except for the catch being attached to the cutter blade. Instead, Fischer teaches the catch (60) being attached to the base and the latch being attached to the cutter blade.

For claims 2-8, the Examiner states that Fischer et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for details of an assembly associated with the latch device. Specifically, the assembly including a rod, a barrel having a bore, an aperture, and a peripheral bulge, a spring, a screw hole on the pole, and an outer

thread on the rod.

The Examiner then further cites Kienzler as an example disclosing a spring loaded assembly including a rod (16) slidably received a bore (17) of a barrel (9), a spring (18) received in the bore and engaged with the rod, the barrel including an aperture (Figure 2) formed therein and communicating with the bore to slidably receive the rod, the aperture of the barrel having an inner diameter smaller than that of the bore and including a peripheral bulge extending radially and outwardly, and the pole including a screw hole (20), and the rod including an outer thread (19).

Regarding claim 8, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the catch having an opening smaller than that of the orifice on the modified device of Fischer since the examiner takes Official Notice of the use of such a catch engaging a rod as old and well known in the art for the purposes of interlocking two parts together.

However, actually, in Fischer et al., as disclosed in col. 5, lines 61-66, the stud 62 is extended outwardly from the carrier 34, for engaging with the releasable lock 60. However, the stud 62 may not be moved relative to the lock 60, and to be selectively engaged with or disengaged from the lock 60.

By contrast, in Applicant's invention, as amended in the amended claims 1 and 3-7, the catch (30) is rotatably attached to the cutter blade (20) and having an orifice (32) and an opening (33) communicating with each other, in which the orifice (32) of the catch (30) includes an inner diameter greater than that of the opening (33) of the catch (30), and the catch (30) includes a hand grip (31)

for rotating the catch (30), a latch device (50) includes a pole (52) selectively engageable into the orifice (32) of the catch (30) or disengageable from the orifice (32) of the catch (30), and biasable into the orifice (32) of the catch (30) with a spring (43), and simultaneously, a rod (45) is slidably received in the base (11) and secured to the pole (52) and having an outer diameter smaller than that of the orifice (32) and the opening (33) of the catch (30), to allow the rod (45) to move out through the opening (33) of the catch (30).

It is to be noted that the pole (52) may be biased to engage into the orifice (32) of the catch (30), to lock the catch (30) of the cutter blade (20) to the base (11), and to prevent the catch (30) from being rotated and disengaged from the pole (52) and the rod (45). In addition, when the pole (52) is pulled against the spring (43), the pole (52) may be disengaged from the orifice (32) of the catch (30), to allow the rod (45) to move out through the opening (33) of the catch (30), and thus to allow the catch (30) to be rotated and disengaged from the pole (52) and the rod (45).

The catch (30) may be released only when the pole (52) is pulled against the spring (43) and disengaged from the orifice (32) of the catch (30), such that the catch (30) may not be easily rotated and disengaged from the pole (52) and the rod (45) by children inadvertently, and such that children may be prevented from being hurt by the cutter blade (20) inadvertently. The cited arts fail to teach a catch (30) including an orifice (32) having an inner diameter greater than that of the opening (33) of the catch (30), and a latch device (50) including a pole (52) selectively engageable into the

orifice (32) of the catch (30) or disengageable from the orifice (32) of the catch (30), and biasable into the orifice (32) of the catch (30) by the spring (43), and a rod (45) secured to the pole (52) and moveable out through the opening (33) of the catch (30), to allow the catch (30) to be released from the pole (52) without disengaging the catch (30) or the pole (52) from the cutter blade (20) and the base (11). The applicant's invention is different from that of the cited arts and has improved over the cited arts.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably distinguishable over the cited arts and that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Courtesy and cooperation of Examiner CHOI are appreciated.

respectfully submitted,

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